

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2004

Domestic primary aluminum production in December was 211,318 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,817 t, 1% lower than that of the previous month and 5% below the rate for December 2003. Total primary metal production for 2004 was 2,516,362 t, 7% lower than the reported production of 2,703,328 t in 2003. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to 90.95 cents per pound in December from 89.38 cents per pound in November, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) began the month at 62–64 cents per pound. On December 7, the buying price range

increased a penny to 63–65 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the year.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased in January 2005 to 89.75 cents per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs increased a total of a penny in January 2005. On January 5, the price range narrowed to 64–65 cents per pound. On January 11, the price range widened to 64–66 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2003 ⁵	2,700	1,750	1,070	2,820	2,870	822	3,690	9,210	1,400
2003:									
December	221	139	86	226	243	64	306	753	1,400
2004:									
January	216	151	94	245	211	64	274	735	1,440 ^r
February	202	155	83	238	288	69	356	797	1,430
March	217	161	100	261	248	76	324	801	1,420
April	209	152	102	253	254	72	326	788	1,440
May	217	156	102	258	282	76	357	832	1,430
June	204	142	102	244	309	80	389	838	1,440
July	209	152	100	251	297	80	377	837	1,490 ^r
August	210	158	106	264	225	87	312	786	1,470 ^r
September	203	152	105	257	279	84	364	824	1,420
October	211	160	105	265	286	84	370	846	1,390
November	207 ^r	150	103	253	272	84	356	816	1,420
December	211	139	94	233	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-December	2,520	1,830	1,200	3,020	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

⁵Includes monthly and annual data.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
2003 ²	1,680	1,220	852	736	821	766	103	92	9	9	3,460	2,820
2003:												
December	126	93	61	52	76	71	10	9	(3)	(3)	274	226
2004:												
January	133	99	57	51	90	84	11	10	(3)	(3)	292	245
February	133	98	50	45	90	85	11	10	1	1	285	238
March	146	108	64	57	92	86	11	10	(3)	(3)	313	261
April	141	105	65	57	89	83	9	8	(3)	(3)	304	253
May	140	103	68	60	93	87	8	7	1	1	310	258
June	135	100	62	55	88	82	8	7	(3)	(3)	294	244
July	136	100	66	58	91	85	8	7	(3)	(3)	302	251
August	146	108	67	60	95	89	8	7	(3)	(3)	317	264
September	143	105	67	59	91	84	9	8	(3)	(3)	309	257
October	147	109	64	56	97	91	9	8	(3)	(3)	318	265
November	145	107	64	56	87	81	9	8	(3)	(3)	305	253
December	133	98	61	54	78	73	8	7	(3)	(3)	281	233
January-December	1,680	1,240	754	668	1,080	1,010	110	98	5	5	3,630	3,020

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes monthly and annual data.

³Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN DECEMBER 2004¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	111,000	133,000	82,000	98,500
Integrated aluminum companies	61,200	61,200	53,900	53,900
Independent mill fabricators	65,000	78,000	60,800	73,000
Foundries	7,050	8,450	6,230	7,470
Other consumers	358	429	358	429
Total	245,000	281,000	203,000	233,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN DECEMBER 2004¹

(Metric tons)

	December				January-December ²	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Solids	19,800 ^r	71,200	65,900	25,100	929,000	925,000
Can stock clippings	2,380	25,500	25,600	2,230	301,000	301,000
Other clippings	3,180	7,390	7,390	3,170	93,300	94,200
Borings and turnings	4,470	16,700	16,700	4,480	207,000	207,000
Dross and skimmings	5,020	30,900	30,900	5,010	391,000	390,000
Total new scrap	34,900 ^r	152,000	147,000	40,000	1,920,000	1,920,000
Old scrap:						
Used casting, sheet, clippings	12,200	29,500	29,400	12,400	370,000	369,000
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,490	1,990	1,490	1,990	21,000	20,600
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	4,880 ^r	59,400	58,900	5,430	721,000	731,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,020	7,500	7,490	1,030	102,000	104,000
Total old scrap	19,600 ^r	98,400	97,200	20,800	1,210,000	1,220,000
Sweated pig	70	720	712	78	8,850	8,840
Total all classes	54,600 ^r	251,000	245,000	60,900	3,140,000	3,150,000

¹Revised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2004^{1, 2}

(Metric tons)

	December				January-December ³	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,280	1,230	1,380	3,120	17,500	17,900
380 and variations	7,580	21,300	21,500	7,410	274,000	274,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,610	4,010	4,020	2,610	49,200	49,200
No. 319 and variations	4,140	8,820	8,260	4,700	122,000	123,000
F-132 alloy and variations	1,280	1,780	1,810	1,260	27,100	27,300
Al-Zn alloys	218	150	145	223	1,700	1,700
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	3	3	39	37	37
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	50	381	381	50	4,570	4,570
Other ⁴	5,610	5,380	5,720	5,280	75,700	75,000
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,200	21,700	21,700	10,200	252,000	251,000
Total all alloys	35,000	64,700	64,900	34,900	824,000	824,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,500	XX	XX	120,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,700	XX	XX	36,500	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	467	XX	XX	7,040	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	52,100	XX	XX	660,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revised data from previous months.

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN NOVEMBER 2004¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	November	January- November	November	January- November	November	January- November	November	January- November
Argentina	5,780	67,300	61	576	--	204	5,840	68,100
Australia	1,210	59,000	6	82	--	35	1,210	59,100
Bahrain	799	2,670	1,270	11,700	--	--	2,070	14,400
Belgium	--	688	1,210	10,500	--	--	1,210	11,200
Brazil	17,900	199,000	3,740	29,200	499	4,770	22,200	233,000
Canada	129,000	1,540,000	41,600	452,000	29,900	327,000	200,000	2,320,000
China	1,770	12,100	4,760	47,500	60	230	6,590	59,800
France	79	2,610	668	6,970	--	251	747	9,830
Germany	34	4,280	6,730	73,800	64	876	6,830	78,900
Ghana	--	1,830	--	--	--	--	--	1,830
Hungary	--	--	247	2,960	--	--	247	2,960
Italy	--	450	102	1,750	--	--	102	2,200
Japan	295	1,690	1,500	10,600	43	500	1,840	12,800
Korea, Republic of	16	68	414	2,930	--	29	431	3,030
Mexico	--	1,260	1,840	19,800	5,470	78,800	7,310	99,800
Netherlands	103	1,030	355	2,660	39	229	496	3,920
Norway	182	837	4	121	--	5	186	963
Russia	101,000	795,000	3,890	34,400	540	9,860	106,000	839,000
South Africa	4,000	35,500	3,610	32,500	--	--	7,610	68,000
Spain	--	97	449	1,360	--	--	449	1,460
Sweden	--	1,300	437	3,340	--	188	437	4,830
Switzerland	--	(2)	426	3,710	--	--	426	3,710
Ukraine	--	--	--	--	13	57	13	57
United Arab Emirates	2,400	48,800	--	1	100	374	2,500	49,200
United Kingdom	130	6,310	178	2,610	253	3,970	562	12,900
Venezuela	6,030	128,000	1,210	18,600	1,600	17,800	8,840	165,000
Other	1,470	39,600	9,540	86,100	4,320	51,800	15,300	177,000
Total	272,000	2,950,000	84,200	856,000	42,900	497,000	399,000	4,300,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN NOVEMBER 2004¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	November	January- November	November	January- November	November	January- November	November	January- November
Australia	37	138	111	1,960	--	8	147	2,100
Azerbaijan	--	--	3	3	--	--	3	3
Belgium	16	458	479	5,130	--	61	495	5,650
Brazil	834	1,080	1,330	10,900	59	59	2,230	12,000
Canada	11,000	122,000	36,300	488,000	11,200	131,000	58,500	741,000
China	31	452	4,750	32,100	33,100	282,000	37,900	315,000
Czech Republic	(2)	1	11	145	--	--	12	146
Dominican Republic	--	10	54	635	4	4	58	649
France	2	106	326	5,820	--	176	328	6,100
Germany	1	379	555	4,300	3	245	560	4,920
Hong Kong	2	90	1,120	8,200	472	10,200	1,600	18,500
India	9	137	114	303	249	5,310	371	5,750
Israel	66	1,060	212	2,000	--	19	277	3,090
Italy	190	228	181	1,900	--	42	371	2,170
Japan	389	5,000	741	6,470	1,770	21,400	2,900	32,900
Korea, Republic of	63	664	769	15,300	6,060	47,700	6,890	63,600
Malaysia	2	14	49	1,030	30	53	82	1,100
Mexico	15,000	134,000	18,100	149,000	2,910	34,400	36,000	317,000
Netherlands	14	363	39	653	10	222	63	1,240
Russia	--	5	--	26	--	--	--	32
Saudi Arabia	--	29	899	14,500	--	(2)	899	14,500
Singapore	17	207	202	1,620	--	362	219	2,190
Spain	1	126	67	732	81	1,730	148	2,590
Sweden	--	--	40	258	--	--	40	258
Taiwan	114	624	289	5,340	4,520	36,000	4,930	42,000
Tajikistan	--	--	--	84	--	--	--	84
Thailand	27	164	233	3,310	1,210	4,170	1,470	7,650
Ukraine	--	--	--	(2)	--	--	--	(2)
United Kingdom	37	773	863	10,700	5	155	905	11,700
Venezuela	--	20	143	1,570	--	3	143	1,600
Other	123	3,270	2,180	19,500	2,070	22,200	4,370	45,000
Total	28,000	271,000	70,200	792,000	63,800	598,000	162,000	1,660,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.